

FEDERAL OFFICIALS
WILL FORCE GRAND
REPUBLIC TO TERMS

A Law Has Been Found that Can Be Put Into Operation to Compel Steamboat Owners to Take Necessary Precautions for the Safety of Passengers.

COMPLETE REINSPECTION
HAS BEEN AGREED TO.

Managers of the Vessel, After a Conference with the Federal Authorities, Consent to Have Her Examined—Crew Goes on Strike.

(Special to The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4.—Although Secretary Metcalf, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, appears to think that the

partment of Commerce and Labor, appears to think that the United States Government is powerless to force a reinspection of the steamer.

Grand Republic, a contrary opinion is held by Acting Solicitor Sims, of

that Department. After an exhaustive study of the laws on the subject

to-day he reported that the owners of the boat could be proceeded against.

under Section 4,454 of the laws controlling the steamboat inspection

service.

Under this law, it is held, the Grand Republic could be seized by the Government and tied up as security for the penalties already in

the Government and tied up as security for the penalties already incurred. It is reported that instructions have been sent to New York not

to allow the Grand Republic to sail to-morrow if her managers persist.

in refusing to allow a complete reinspection.

"We have done all that is possible up to this time, while acting strictly within the law," said Secretary Metcalf, who succeeded Chairman

Cortelyou, of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

"Gen. Uhler has just returned from New York after making a thorough investigation. We cannot act arbitrarily in this matter. All we can do is to wait for the results of his investigation."

investigation. We cannot act arbitrarily in this matter. All we can do, so far as I can learn from the laws governing the steamboat inspection service,

is to report failure of the steamboat people to comply with the law, to the Collector of the Port. He in turn refers the case to the United States Dis-

District-Attorney, who takes steps to collect the fine of \$500 for each offense.

CAN'T PREVENT HER SAILING.

"I am not responsible for statements made by persons in New York. I cannot find that I am empowered to prevent the Grand Republic from

sailing. If I had power in that direction I would act at once. This is a

novel case, and there is no precedent. If any one finds a statute which enables me to act I will gladly avail myself of it. All we can do is to keep

on imposing the fine."

In the meantime Mr. Metcalf and Gen. Chas. were turning the pages of the pamphlet containing the laws governing the steamboat inspection.

service.

"I can't find anything but fines, fines, fines!"

"That's correct, there is nothing but fines stipulated," added Gen. Uhler.

"Tell us what happened in New York regarding this Grand Republic matter," said Mr. Metcalf, addressing Gen. Uhler.

"Our inspectors found in their examination and inspection of the Grand

Republic that she was inadequately equipped," began Gen. Uhler. "Her life-boats and life-preservers were in bad condition. There was small an-

appreciation of the fire drill among the crew or officers. Evidently there was

"At 11 o'clock at night, the night of the inspection, while it was in

At 11 o'clock at night, the night of the inspection, while it was in progress, when our men made a demand that steam be allowed to escape